

Block Grant draft answers

1. Please enter your county

Franklin

2. Please enter the name of the person completing this survey.

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4. Provide a list of the main reasons why you think you are well placed to become a block grant pilot county. If applicable, include any administrative efficiency anticipated under a block grant approach.

Franklin County is perfectly poised to be a pilot block grant county for many reasons. First, and foremost, we always take a multi-systemic approach to identify our problems and develop optimal solutions. Our Human Services delivery system has been integrated for over 17 years: we have a Human Services Director (only 2 incumbents over that time frame) and a Human Services Fiscal Coordinator that oversee the Children and Youth Services, MH/ID/EI, AAA, Managed Care, Drug and Alcohol, Veterans Affairs, HSDF/Homeless, Coordinated Transportation...as well as the Public Defender.

4.1. We hold monthly categorical cross systems meetings to share information and develop common approaches.

4.2. We have numerous ongoing multi-systemic focus groups....from our children's steering committee, our placement options group, our behavioral health managed care application and oversight, CASSP, the CJAB Behavioral Health Committee....to name a few.

4.3. Our Commissioners have supported the Block Grant project from the beginning...through advocacy to our legislators and participation and representation in CCAP.

4.4. Administrative efficiencies...

Our budget conscious tendencies are of paramount importance now, due to being under-capitated in all our human services. Our funding, in per capita, averages 12th from the bottom across Human Services allocations. Our categorical allocations have not kept pace with our population growth (Fourth fastest growing county in PA per the 2010 US Census figures). Due to our integrated approach, during the last several years of cuts in human services we were able to minimize the impact on consumers and providers. By participating in the block grant, we will enhance this approach by reprogramming any savings both during and after the fiscal year to areas of greatest need. Because of our fiscal prudence, we have not had to stop paying providers when the state has delayed our allocations....which allows for continuity of services. We have not been able to utilize all of our BDAP act 152 funds for several years due to our ability to get clients eligible for MA early on. Instead of these funds going to the HUB to benefit citizens of other counties, we want to use them to serve our citizens. In summary....we would like to benefit our consumers by enhancing our traditional efficiencies through the block grant pilot program. In continuing with our collaborative, multi-systemic approach, we will determine the best use of underspent funds during the planning process.

- 5. Do you intend to seek a waiver of the four year phase in of the block grant? If so, please explain how this will benefit the county and local service delivery.**

We intend to ask for a waiver of the phase-in starting in the second year of the grant. We believe in local determination through the public planning process. We do not believe the process will result in a “knee-jerk” momentous shift in reallocating funds. Instead, we would rather put the determination in the hands of those who will have to live with the results. Thus, our request is demonstrating faith in the process versus some pre-ordained wish to move large amounts of funding. We will use the first year to sort out the process and therefore do not see a need to waive during the first year. This will result in funds freed by efficiencies being returned into services as local need determines. It will also allow more service continuity between fiscal years when state allocations or “freezes” occur.

6. **Identify current staffing structures that will be involved in management of the block grant, and provide an organizational chart. Also, state how you plan on training staff to manage the work associated with becoming a pilot.**

Our existing structure already provides the necessary oversight for managing this grant. As with any new reporting, we will assimilate changes into current procedures. Once the required fields are determined, we will use either the integrated data system or the existing categorical data systems to respond. We do intend to add a Human Service Data Analyst to more fully utilize the robust abilities of the Integrated Data System. There are existing venues for training of human services staff that occur on a routine basis, such as Human Services Training days and other trainings sponsored by categorical agencies. The Human Services Fiscal Manager will oversee the fiscal aspects with support from the Human Services Fiscal Officer III.

7. **Outline how you intend to involve the public, providers, and clients in the planning process.**

The existing categorical Human Service Agencies have functional Advisory Boards, including the joinder boards in MH/ID/EI, D/A, and Managed Care (TMCA). We will engage these boards to solicit Block Grant input from the public, providers, and consumers. In addition, we are creating a Human Services Steering committee with representation from the various boards as well as appointed at-large representatives from the public/consumer pool of citizens. They will have Quarterly open meetings to discuss the Block Grant, share data and develop plans as necessary. The Board of Commissioners at their normal open board meeting will approve the final block grant plan.

8. **Provide at least one example of a creative/innovative human service or application of services that you have developed to increase effectiveness of your human service delivery system. This may include county integration and/or collaborative efforts.**

Franklin County has a strong history of creative/innovative human service delivery. Two examples come immediately to mind.

- 8.1. The Behavioral Health Committee of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) addresses solutions to problems jointly shared between the Forensic system and the Human Service System. As outcomes we have seen

the following: 1.) Successful alternatives to incarceration, including a Mental Health Jail Diversion Program, the Drug & Alcohol Probation Partnership, and the first Day Reporting center in the state, 2.) Training and development of a county-specific Sequential Intercept Model (AKA Cross-Systems Map) for Behavioral Health as it applies to the Forensic system. 3.) Behavioral Health training for over 300 local law enforcement officers, first responders, judges and attorneys, on topics including how to identify and engage individuals exhibiting signs of mental illness and the Mental Health Procedures act 4.) Forensic Housing Re-entry Program to address the needs of offenders with multiple barriers to self-sufficiency. The successes here are evidenced by our lower recidivism rates for program participants as well as the appointment of our former warden as PA Secretary of Corrections.

8.2. TMCA (Behavioral Health Managed Care). Despite opposition from OMHSAS originally -we were able to, as the smallest entity, successfully implement Medicaid Behavioral Health Managed Care. This was a broad based community/consumer involved start-up and implementation. To this day it remains successful and has managed to save enough dollars to fund most of its Risk and Equity requirements. We envision employing the same, with the same success, with this Block Grant implementation.

9. Provide information on the capacity and structure of current county data systems. Will upgrades to the current system be required in order to meet reporting requirements of the block grant? If so, how long will it take for the upgrades and do you have the financial resources to make the upgrades?

Our current county systems have both the capacity and structure to meet block grant reporting requirements. We will meet reporting requirements by mining either the current categorical systems or the Integrated Data Warehouse. We utilize the state-provided data systems in ID, D/A, EI, HCIS, and SAMS. In addition, we have categorical data systems for TMCA, MH, ID, and CYS. We are in our final phase of integrated Data Warehouse development. For the past several years, we have worked with ACA Associates to compile data from TMCA, CYS, Probation, MH, ID, and Aging into one Integrated Data Warehouse. Once the final systems in CYS and D/A are available, our Integrated Data Warehouse will be complete. The plan is to request utilization of unspent monies from 2011/12 fiscal year along with 2012/13 HSDF and some county match to complete the system by 2013.

- 10. If you are part of a joinder arrangement or contract with a private SCA, that relationship must be accounted for in the pilot environment. You must provide an explanation of the role the existing joinder or private SCA arrangement will serve if you are selected as a pilot county. If you are not part of a joinder and do not contract with a private SCA, please enter N/A.**

We have three separate Intergovernmental Agreements with Fulton County to operate MH/ID/EI , D/A, and Managed Care. We have enjoyed long productive relationships in the first two and have enjoyed an especially successful jointly-operated board to oversee Medicaid Behavioral Health Managed Care (TMCA). Both counties share resources even in areas we do not have a joinder such as CYS and Juvenile Probation. We will collaborate in the planning process for the Block Grant, though each County will hold separate public meetings to ensure there is adequate access for and representation of citizens in each county. Representatives of the joinder boards as well as the Human Services directors from each county will participate in the planning process for both counties. Any shift of block grant funds from joinder-operated programs will require agreement from both counties.